





















AM, YOU WATCH TOO MUCH TV.



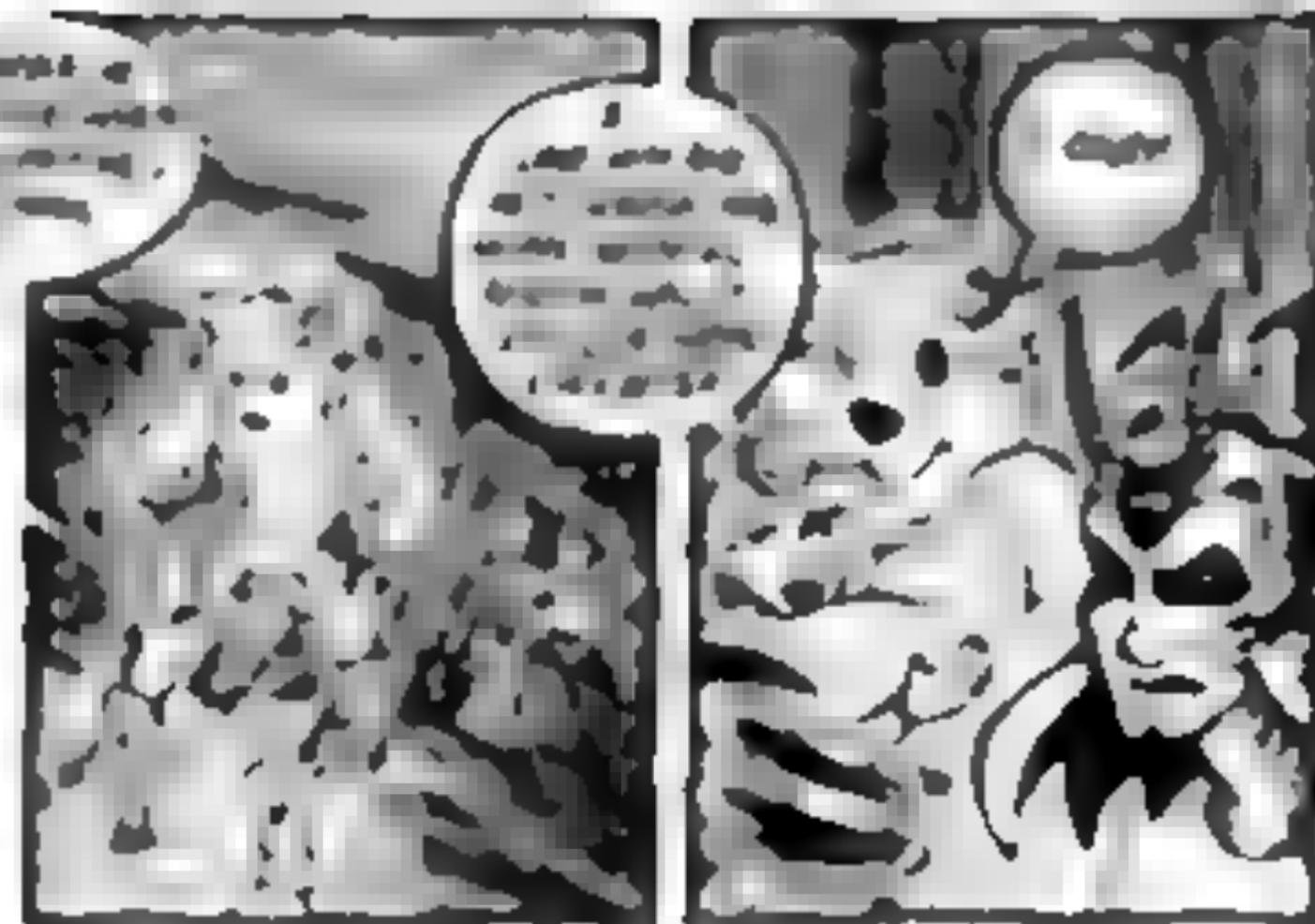


















WHAT NOW.



I'M NOT
COMING FOR
CHRISTMAS.

I'M SORRY, I JUST
CAN'T THERE'S TOO
MUCH TO DO HERE,
AND I CAN'T FIT
THE TRIP INTO
OUR BUDGET.

MOM...
DON'T
COME
OVER.

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT
YOU TO GO THROUGH ALL
THAT TROUBLE FOR ME. I
REALLY DON'T AND LIKE I
SAID, IT'S HECTIC OVER HERE,
AND IT'D BE HARD ON ALL
OF US.

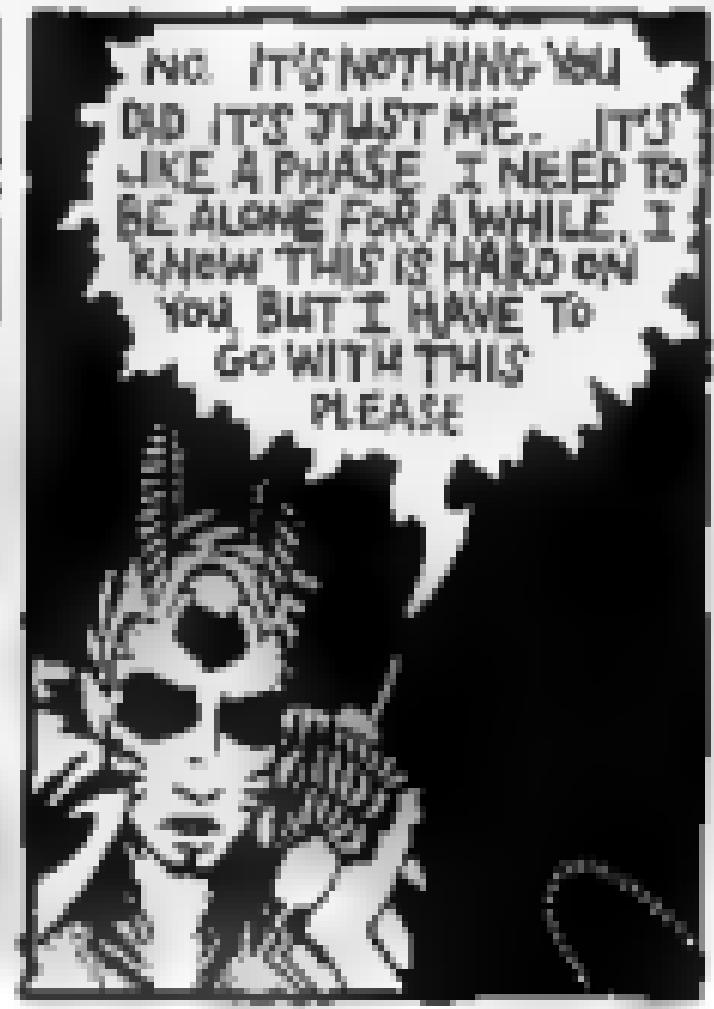


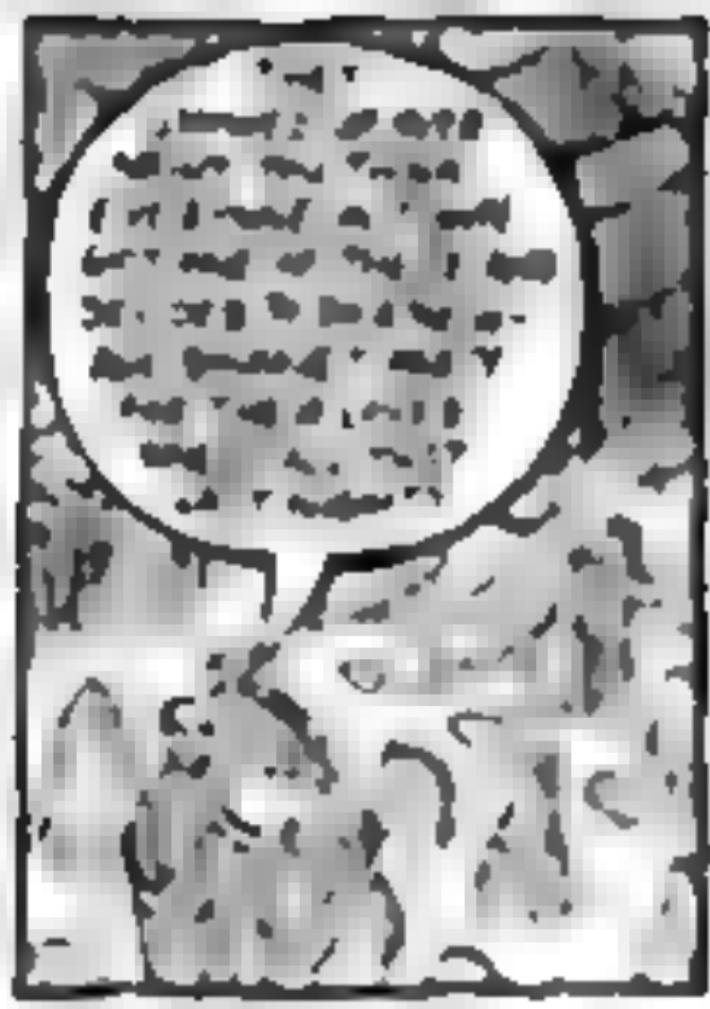
I'M
SORRY.

I MISS
YOU TOO.



BUT I
JUST
CAN'T.







WHAT IN. ?

I HATE
KEEPING SE-
CRETS. ESPECIALLY
FROM PEOPLE
I CARE
ABOUT

STICKY?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

WOULD YOU LIKE
TO TALK? I'M NO
DIARY, BUT I
WON'T TELL
EITHER

IT'S JUST...
SANDRA'S SO
DAMN SMART.
SHE KEEPS
ASKING
QUESTIONS.

WHAT
DON'T YOU
WANT TO
TELL HER?

WELL, YOU KNOW.
I WOULD LOVE TO
KEEP HER FROM
FLAMING ME.
BUT I
DON'T

IT
ASSUMES
YOUR
GUILT

YEAH, BUT
ALSO, I'M NOT
SURE WE CAN
AFFORD FOR
HER NOT TO.
WHEN IT HAPPENS,
I SENSE A KIND OF
RELIEF A WAVE OF CAWN
EMANATING FROM HER
SUBCONSCIOUS, LIKE...
COMING UP FOR AIR.

I DON'T UNDER-
STAND WHAT YOU'RE
GETTING AT

THERE'S
A SAYING:
"BIRDS
GOTTA FLY,
FISH GOTTA
SWIM."

ARE YOU THINKING OF TURNING HER INTO AN ANIMAL??

OF COURSE I AM!



HUMANS ARE ANIMALS
CHANGING A GIRL INTO A FOX-GIRL ISN'T SO HARD
- IT'S LIKE DRAWING OVER A PENCIL SKETCH. BUT WITH

SANDRA, IT'S
LIKE TRYING TO TURN A
PENCIL SKETCH INTO A PHOTOGRAPH



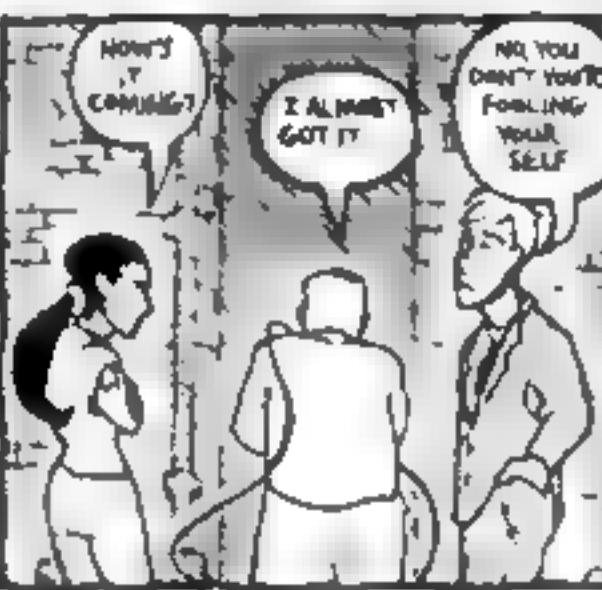
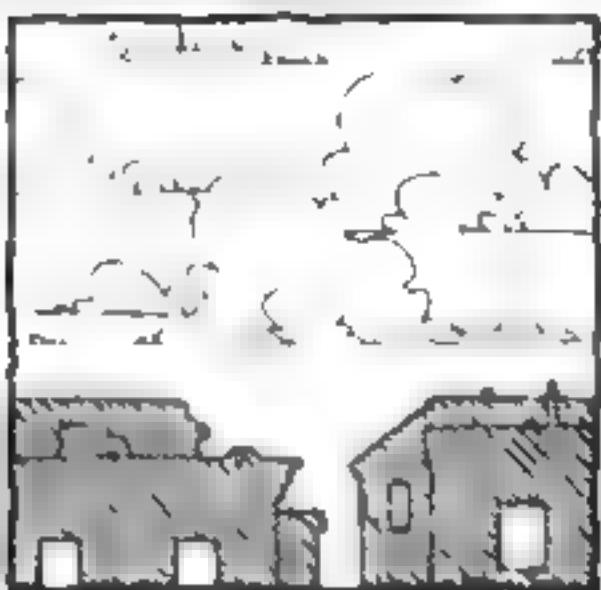
AND SHEESH, IF I EVER DO MANAGE SUCH A SPELL, I STILL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE IT WORK ON HER! MOST CASUAL MAGIC HITS DEMONS LIKE WATER OFF A DUCK'S BACK

THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM FOR A LONG TIME MORE SO THAN I WANT SANDRA TO KNOW



YOU WANT TO TURN HER INTO A BUCK?









A SIGH A
THANK
YOU

SO. YOU'RE A
GOTH. HOW IS
THAT FOR
YOU?

I
ACTUALLY,
I'M NOT A
GOTH. I JUST
WEAR MAKEUP
TO COVER MY
SCARS.

OH, WELL. YOU
WERE IN AN
ACCIDENT

YEAH
IT MAKES
PEOPLE
UNCOMFORTABLE
- IT MAKES
ME UN-
COMFORTABLE

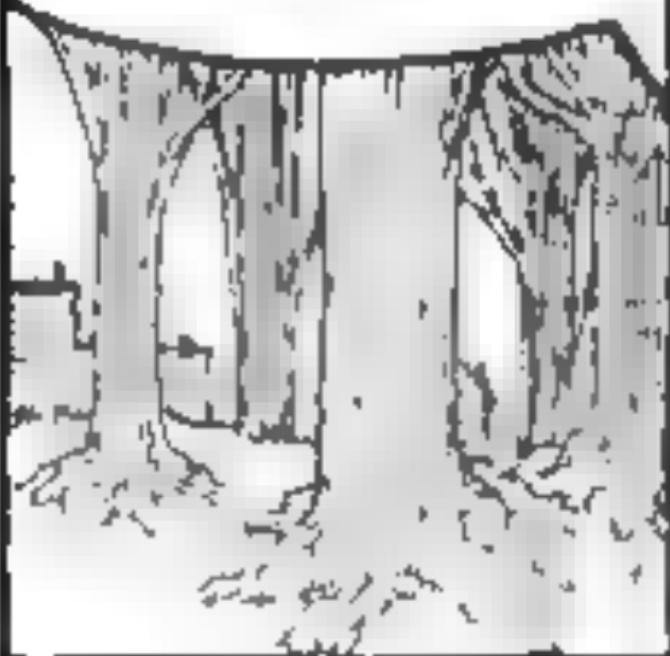
WELL THEN SCREW
IT. HOW ABOUT YOUR
TRENCHCOAT? IS THAT
COMFORTABLE? DO
YOU WEAR IT AT
HOME?

NOT
INDOORS
BUT IT IS
COMFY.

NOW,
SHE REALLY
BEGINS TO
OPEN UP

WE'RE
AT THE
FOREST,
GUYS!

ON THE DUTSKIRTS OF OUR TOWN IS A FOREST. A PEACEFUL SWATH OF LAND, POPULAR WITH HIKERS AND CHILDREN AT PLAY.. OR, IT USED TO BE.



A SHORT TIME AGO, SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THESE WOODS. SOMETHING STRANGE. MONSTROUS NOISES ECHOED THROUGHOUT THE TOWN. SOME SWEAR THEY HEARD WOLVES HOWLING. OTHERS HEARD THE VIOLENT CRASHING OF TREES.



STILL OTHERS SAW STRANGE LIGHTS, A FOREST FIRE ILLUMINATING DARK SHAPES... MASSIVE, TERRIFYING FORMS WRITHING AGAINST THE TREES AND FLYING- THROUGH THE AIR.



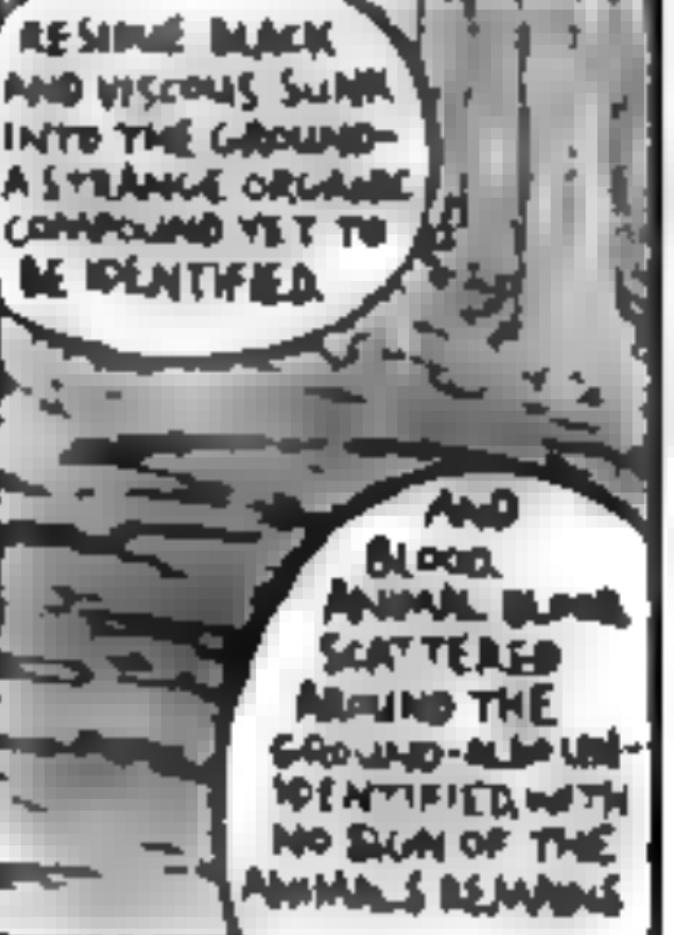
I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND OUR AUDIENCE THAT BLANK WITCH JOKES AT THIS POINT WOULD BE OVERLY OBVIOUS AND PASSE.





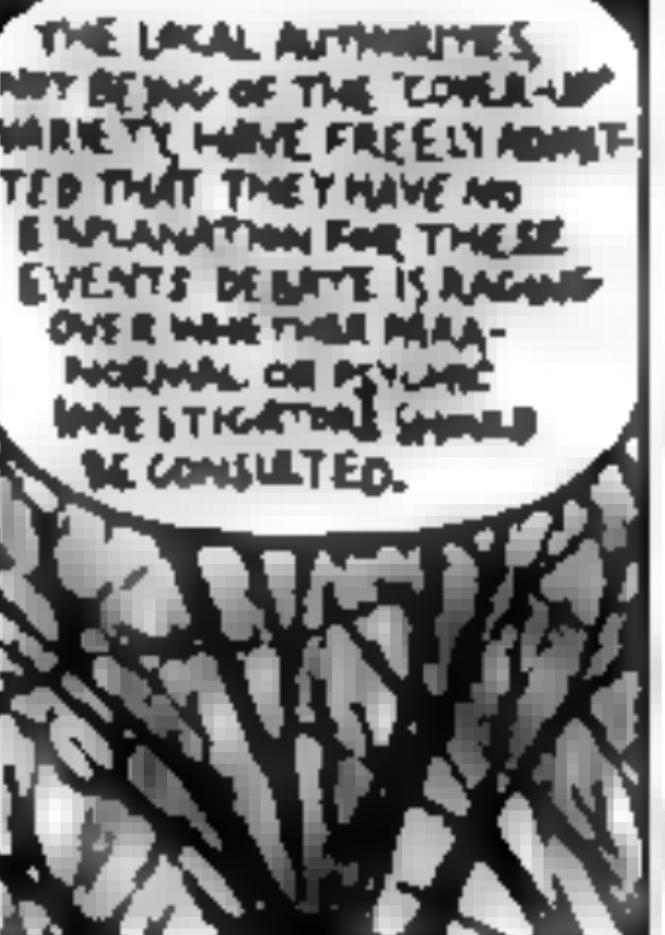
SOME THINGS DID
HAPPEN THAT
MUCH IS
CERTAIN.

THESE ARE
BURNED TRUNKS
ARE SMASHED APART,
AND AT PLACES TOO
HARD FOR A HUMAN TO
REACH AN OLD SHED
BLOWN APART,
WITHOUT
FIRE.

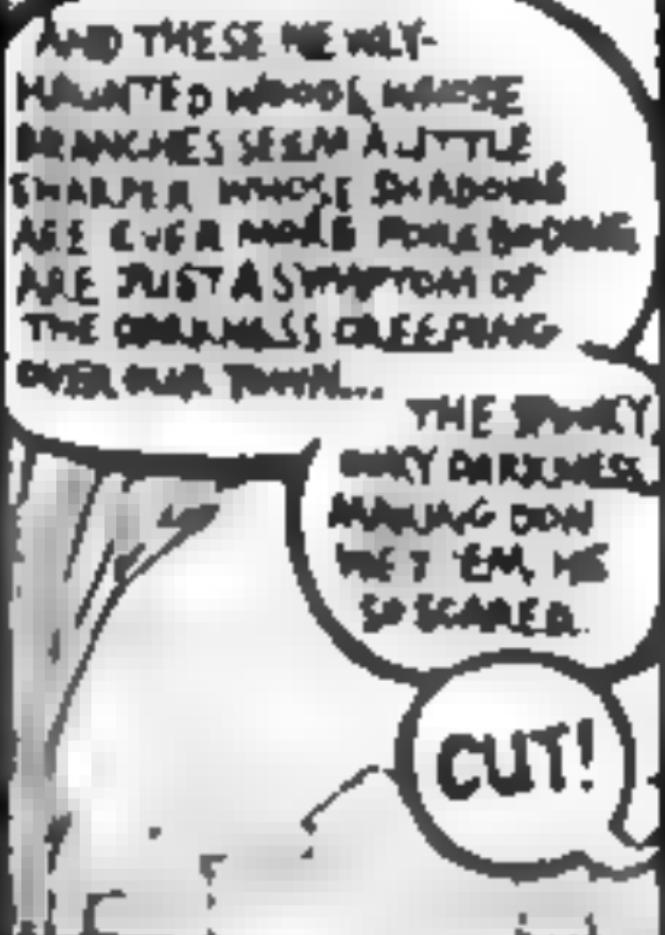


RESEMBLE BLACK
AND VISCOS SLIME
INTO THE GROUND—
A STRANGE ORGANIC
COMPOUND YET TO
BE IDENTIFIED.

AND
BLOOD.
ANIMAL BLOOD,
SCATTERED
ALONG THE
GROUND—ALSO UN-
IDENTIFIED, WITH
NO SIGN OF THE
ANIMALS REMAINS.



THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES,
NOT BEING OF THE 'COVER-UP'
MAGNETIC, HAVE FREELY ADMIT-
TED THAT THEY HAVE NO
EXPLANATION FOR THESE
EVENTS. DEBATE IS RAGING
OVER WHETHER PARA-
NORMAL OR PSYCHIC
INVESTIGATORS SHOULD
BE CONSULTED.



AND THESE NEWLY-
HAUNTED WOODS, WHOSE
BRANCHES SEEM A LITTLE
SHARPER, WHOSE SHADOWS
ARE EVER MORE FOUL-BODIED,
ARE JUST A SYMPTOM OF
THE OMINOUS CREEPING
OVER OUR TOWN...

THE SPINY
SHINY PARASITES
MAKING DON
MET 'EM, HE
SPEAKER.

CUT!

SO, SHE
REALLY
OPENS
UP?

OH RIGHT
RIGHT SHE
SAYS TO ME,
SHE SAYS...

LISTEN, I'M NOT
STUPID, OR CRAZY, I
JUST NEEDED TO TALK
TO SOMEONE "DOWN TO
EARTH" TO REMIND ME
I'M STILL LIVING
THERE

I HOPE
THAT DOESN'T
SOUND STUPID
OR CRAZY I
CAN'T TELL
THE DIFFERENCE
ANYMORE

NO, I HEAR YOU.
THE WHOLE STUPID
TOWN'S GOING CRAZY,
ISN'T IT? MONSTER
SIGHTINGS, HAUNT-
ED HOUSES...

HAUNTED
HOUSES?

SUPPOSEDLY
WELL, ONE
ANYWAY. MY
CREW'LL BE GOING
THERE LATER TODAY!

WE'RE
HERE!

STUPID

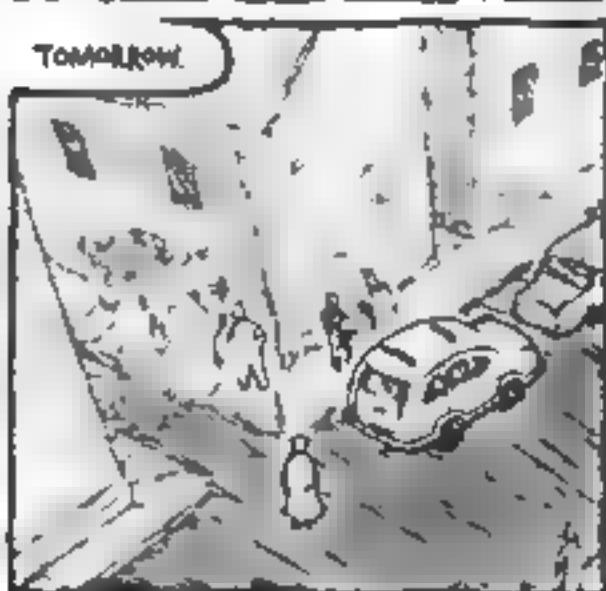


I'M SORRY, OUR HOUSE IS
CURRENTLY UNDER QUARANTINE
TIME DUE TO A PERFECTLY
MUNDANE YET HIGHLY CON-
TAGIOUS, YET UNINTERESTING
STRAIN OF THE MEASLES. FUR-
THERMORE, IT STINKS IN HERE,
AND ALL WE EVER DO
IS PLAY CARDS.



HAVE A
NICE DAY!

SLAM.







I CAME
FROM
RIGHT
HERE

I WAS
GOING TO
THE COFFEE-
SHOP TO
MEET YOU!

YOU WANNA
WALK THERE
TOGETHER?

SURE!
YES!

BUT...
WHERE
ARE
WE...?

SANDRA,
YOU'RE
WORRYING ME.

I'M SORRY,
I THINK I'M
JUST...
I'M...

HUNGRY?







NO. SORRY DAMN
IT, THIS IS FALL-
ING APART

SOMETHING
ALWAYS
HAPPENS.

SANDRA, LET'S JUST
GO SOMEPLACE AND
SIT DOWN, AND
EAT, AND--

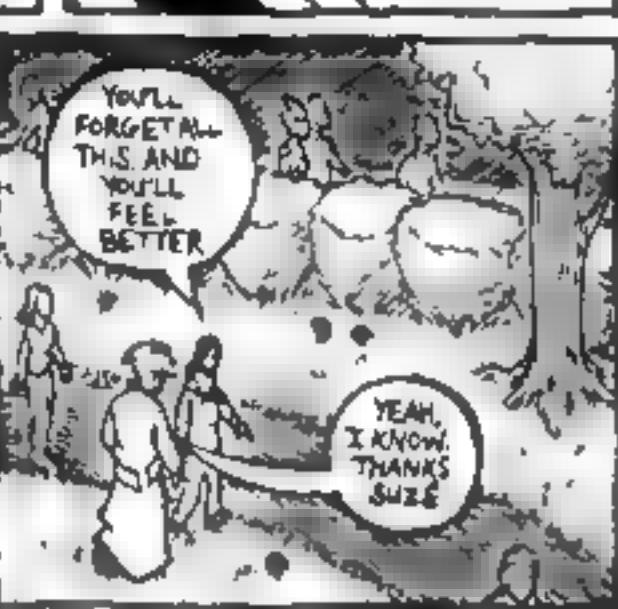
THIS
WAS A
BAD
IDEA.

LISTEN, JEN, THANKS FOR
TALKING, IT WAS GOOD FOR
ME BUT WE SHOULDN'T
TALK ANYMORE.

BUT...

GO TO YOUR
REAL FRIENDS,
ALRIGHT?
STAY IN THE REAL WORLD.

AND SHE
JUST WALKS
AWAY.



SIGHTINGS SOUNDS
RUMORS

IS OUR
TOWN
TRULY
BESET BY
THE SUPER-
NATURAL?

OR IS THE MUNDANE
MERELY FORMING AN
ILLUSION OF THE
FANTASTIC?

WELL, WE STILL CAN'T
ANSWER THAT BUT WE'RE
AT LEAST IN A BETTER
POSITION TO JUDGE, AND
NOW, SO ARE YOU!

PERSONALLY, I'D SAY
WE'RE HAUNTED LIKE
NUTS OVER HERE.

IN THE
WORDS OF
WINSTON
I LOVE
THIS
TOWN.

FOUR DAYS LATER
YOU STILL AREN'T
FORGETTING

GOT MY
GOOD SIDE,
RIGHT JEN?

WHAT ARE YOU IN
LOVE WITH HER?
YOU'VE GOT BETTER
THINGS TO OBSESS
OVER!

JEN,
THE CAMERA
LOOKS WOBBLY.
TAKE IT
HOME AND
FIX IT.

THIS IS ME
ENJOYING MY
LIFE I'M FINDING
PURPOSE AND
MEANING AND
FULFILLMENT
HERE

HEY JEN,
DON'T FORGET
TO CHECK OUT THE
EDITING EQUIP-
MENT, OKAY?
THANKS

I WAS KIDDING
ABOUT THE
SUICIDE,
WASN'T I?

DON'T BE LATE
TOMORROW JEN,
WE'VE GOT AN
APPOINTMENT AT
THE SOUND STUDIO,
REMEMBER!

LOOK GRADUATING
COLLEGE ISN'T THE
END OF THE WORLD IT'S
A NEW BEGINNING, AND
ALL LIKE THAT

BE HAPPY.

...I
NEED A
CIGARETTE

WHY IS SHE SO
IMPORTANT?? DO
YOU THINK SHE
NEEDS YOU? DO
YOU NEED
HER JEN?

YOU BOTH
HAVE YOUR
OWN LIVES
TO LIVE

BESIDES,
SHE WAS SO
OUT OF IT
AH.

SHE
PROBABLY
DOESN'T EVEN
REMEMBER
ME.





THREE WEEKS AGO
WE BEGAN FILMING
A DOCUMENTARY
WITH OUR FRIEND
JEN STONE. OUR
SUBJECTS WERE
THE MYSTERIES OF
MAGELLANIA.

TWO WEEKS
AGO JEN
DISAPPEARED.





WE APPRECIATE THE IRONY
CRUEL THOUGH IT IS THAT
JEN HERSELF HAS BECOME
ONE OF THIS TOWN'S MYS-
TERIES ONE THAT WE'VE
BECOME PERSONALLY
INVOLVED IN OUR CLASS-
MATES AND US WAIT
ANXIOUSLY FOR A
RESOLUTION.



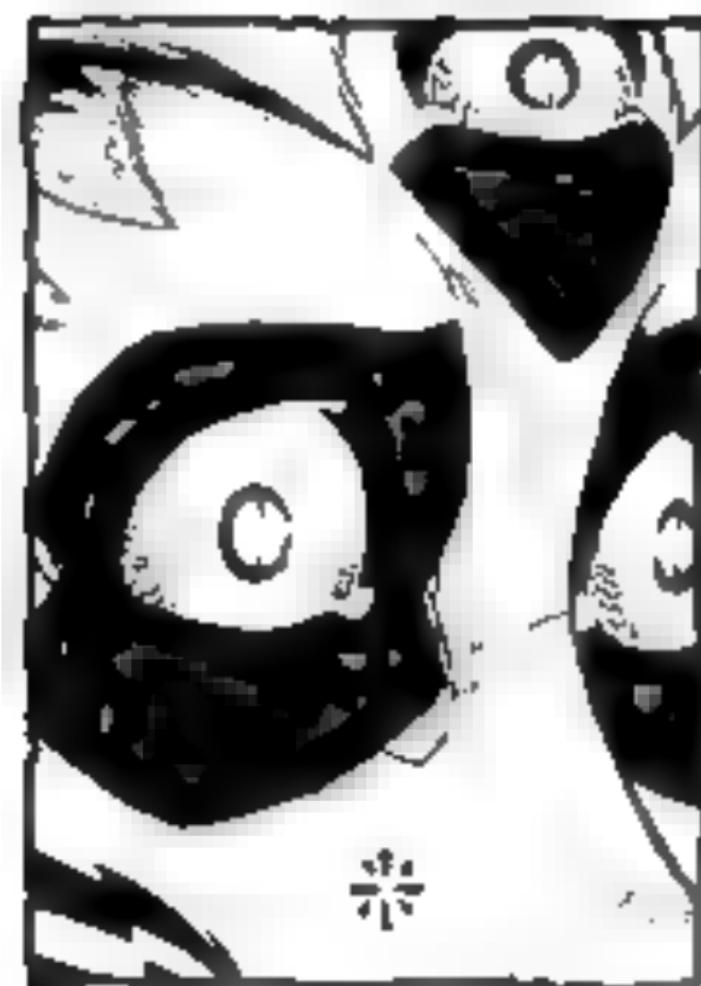
AND WITH
GREATER ANXIETY,
CONSIDER THAT
THERE MIGHT NOT BE
A RESOLUTION WEEKS
OF SEARCHING HAVE
PROVIDED NO CLUES. IF
THERE WAS A TRAIL, IT'S
BEGUN TO GROW COLD.
THIS IS WHEN MYSTERIES
ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.
WHEN ALL WE CAN DO
IS GUESS AT
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT.



AND LIKE A TWIST END-
ING, THE IRONY RUNS
EVEN DEEPER THE NIGHT
SHE DISAPPEARED JEN
WAS CARRYING EVERY-
THING WE'D FILMED
INCLUDING SOUNDS OF
THE DEVIL OUR TOWN
HAS BEEN
CAPTIVATED
WITH.

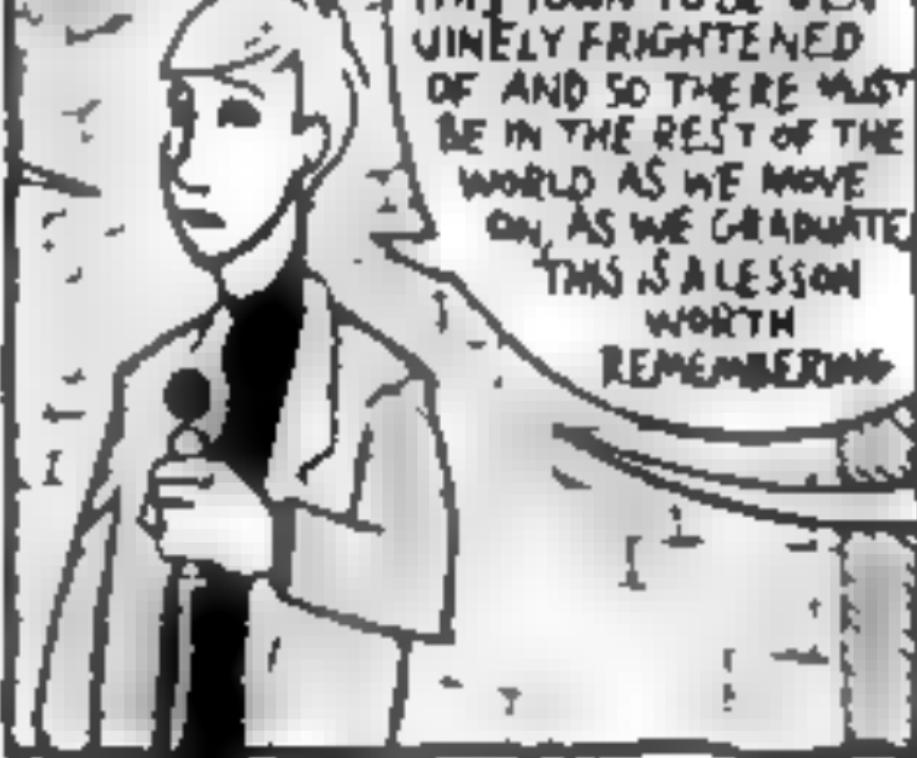


WHICH
WAS REALLY
COOL. TAKE
OUR WORD
FOR IT.





AND YET WITH ALL WE SAW AND HEARD WE
ONLY GLANCED AT IT ALL WITH GLIB
CURIOSITY WE WERE FRIENDS
HAVING FUN

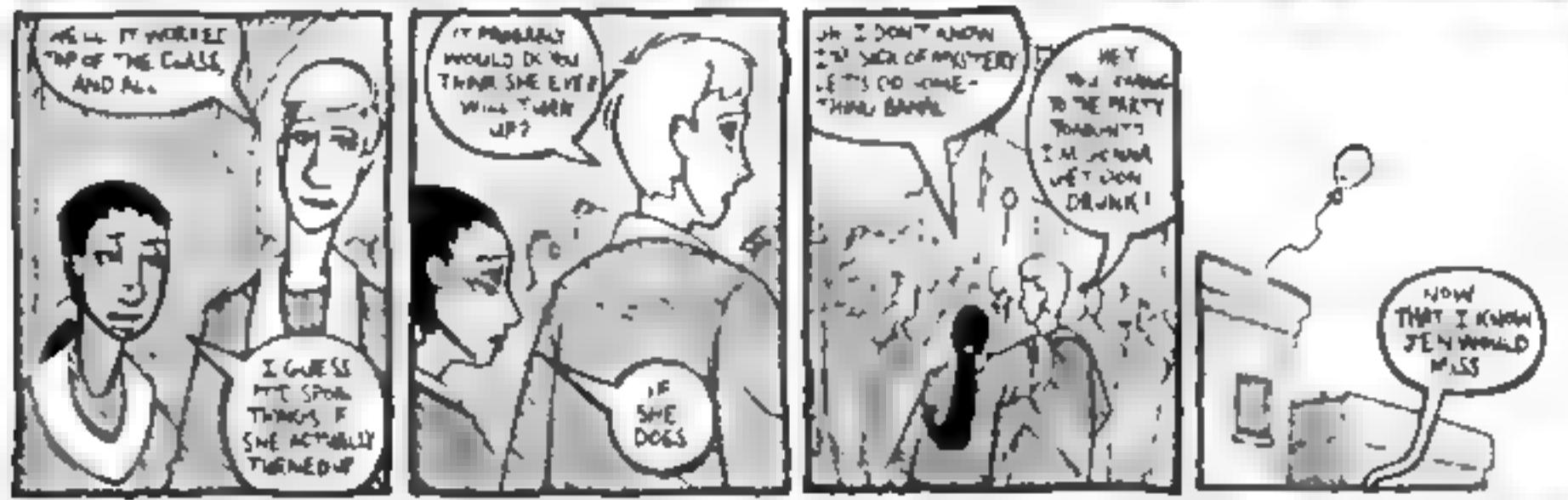


IF ANYTHING THIS HAS
TAUGHT US RESPECT
THERE ARE THINGS IN
THIS TOWN TO BE GEN-
UINELY FRIGHTENED
OF AND SO THERE MUST
BE IN THE REST OF THE
WORLD AS WE MOVE
ON, AS WE GRADUATE
THIS IS A LESSON
WORTH
REMEMBERING



AS FOR OUR FRIEND
JEN WE CAN AT LEAST
HOPE THAT AS SHE
PASSES INTO MYSTERY
HOWEVER LONG SHE'S
THERE, PERHAPS SHE
DID WHAT WE ONLY
PLAYED AT AND
ACTUALLY FOUND
SOME ANSWERS.





Dear Diary. Wow
What a crazy couple
of months we had

It all started after our
werewolf adventure.
Sandra had gone out
and made friends with
a girl named Teo.



Which was good of
course. She doesn't get
out enough. Teo worked
with a film crew. It
seems we've gained a
reputation as a haunted
house! But that's
another story. Anyways,
Sandra went to meet
her again.



But she came back
after a few hours, telling
us that she'd been
wandering around town
in a daze! (Daze? Daze?)
Jack guessed that Sandra's
messing wing was
driving her crazy, and
that she was going through
an episode like she had
in Sam's world. Only not
so bad.



Jack's gotten so smart
with these things I'm so
proud of him! But he
said that she could get
worse and that she
should be locked in a
room until she's not
crazy anymore. Except
he made it sound nicer
than that. Or he
should have



After Jack had unburned himself and Sandra settled down. We agreed that it wasnt really a bad idea after all Sandra spends most of her time indoors any way. So we cleared up her room and Jack set up a space for her



Poor poor Sandra Jack started bringing her these small boxes every day. He called them demon chow. I dont know what it really was but Sandra apparently couldnt help it down. So then he started bringing plants which I dont get at all. Part of some healing ritual I assume. How did Sandra feel so quickly last time?



I tried speaking to her through the door (Jack said I shouldnt go in), but as time passed she got more and more scared. So I lost track of time, and started talking about meeting Ten for coffee



It was so sad and I didnt know what to do. Thank goodness for the boys and their comfort. Thank goodness all is well now. Thank goodness for Ten



WHAT
EXACTLY DID
JEN DO?

FOR
ONE THING
SHE KEPT
SANDRA
TALKING

AND
FOR
ANOTHER
THING?

WHEN SANDRA GOES
INTO A FEEDING FRENZY
I THINK SHE KEYS IN ON
SOMETHING. HER LAST
THOUGHTS MAYBE AS A
SUBCONSCIOUS OBJECT
WE JUST FINDING
JEN HELPED HER RELAX
BECAUSE SHE KEPT
THINKING SHE
HAD TO FIND
HER

BUT
WHY?

WHAT DID
SHE MEET
JEN IN THE
FLAT FOR?
SHE WANTED
TALK TO SOME
ONE SHE WAS
STARTING FOR
AT ENTHUSIAS
MUCH. HER
BODY WAS
THE OTHER FOR
BUILDING
MATERIAL.

EXACTLY

BOTH OF
WHICH JEN
PROVIDED

A SHAME
YOU WANTED
YOUR MONEY
ON THOSE
PLANTS AND
ANIMALS.

I WOULD
IF MONS JUST
PREFER HUMANS
OVER HAMMERS

BUT HOW
DID JEN
ENDURE
AT THAT
FEED-
ING DO
JIN-
SCATHED?

OH THAT WAS ONE
OF MY BEST IDEAS
EVER WHEN WE
GOT HOME I
NOTICED THAT
SANDRA HAD
FED ON JEN'S
ARM AND I
THOUGHT HEY,
I CAN HEAL
THAT AND THEN
I THOUGHT SO
WHY CAN'T
SANDRA
HAVE IT
AGAIN?

YOU MEAN,
ALL THAT
TIME

YEP FOR
ALMOST A WEEK
HANGING OUT IN
SANDRA'S ROOM
JEN INTERVIEWED
ME. WE HAD PIZZA,
AND SANDRA HAD
HER. I'D HEAL UP
THE ARM AND
SANDRA WOULD
DO IT AGAIN OVER
AND OVER UNTIL
SHE HAD WHAT
SHE NEEDED
OUT OF JEN'S
FLESH.

BY
THE
END HER
ARM WAS
SCARRED
TO WHERE
EVEN I
COULDNT
FULLY
HEAL
IT.

BUT SHE
SEEMED
OKAY WITH
IT. WHAT
A TROOPER
SHE'LL
SERVE ME
WELL.

AND WHAT OF SANDRA? SHE
MUST KNOW NOW WHAT SHE
DID ON JAM'S WORLD HOW
IS SHE REACTING?

WELL

SHE'S
BEEN STAY-
ING IN HER
ROOM AN
AWFUL LOT



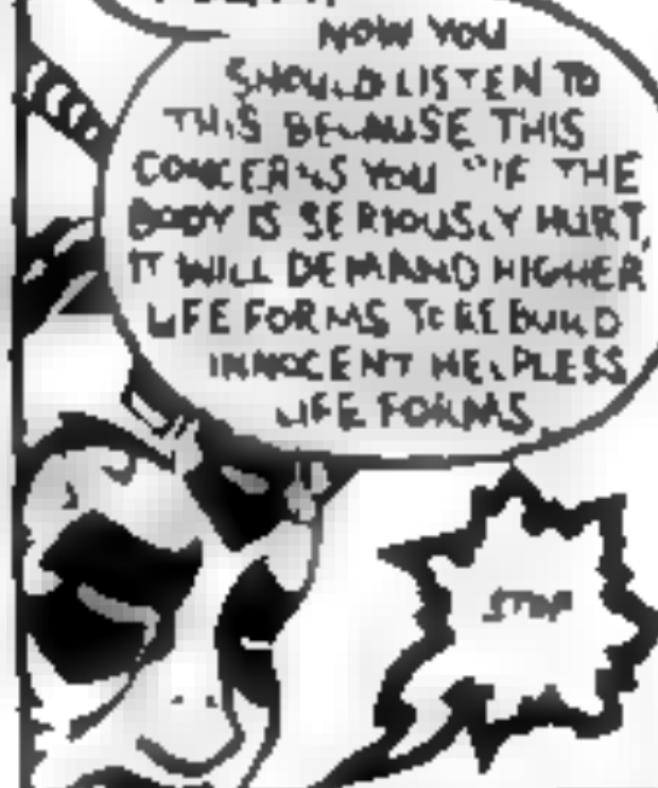
"I THOUGHT THIS WAS ONCE I SAW ON THE INTERNET FASCINATING CREATURES, 'C CLASS DEMONS' LISTEN TO THIS

"THIS DEMON IS, IN ESSENCE, WELL, AN ESSENCE A SP'R'T, LIKE ALL DEMONS



"WHEN SUMMONED TO THE MORTAL PLANE IT WILL BEGIN ABSORBING LIVING MATERIAL FROM ITS SURROUNDINGS TO MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL BODY HENCE ITS HUNGER DEATH INSATIABLE" PRETTY COOL, HHA?

"THESE BODIES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY AN AURA OF COLD FOR THEY ARE EVER FEEDING ON MACRO-ORGANIC, SE



"THAT COLD IS THE CHILL OF DEATH"

"NOW YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THIS BECAUSE THIS CONCERN'S YOU "IF THE BODY IS SERIOUSLY HURT, IT WILL DEMAND HIGHER LIFE FORMS TO REBUILD INNOCENT HELPLESS LIFE FORMS,

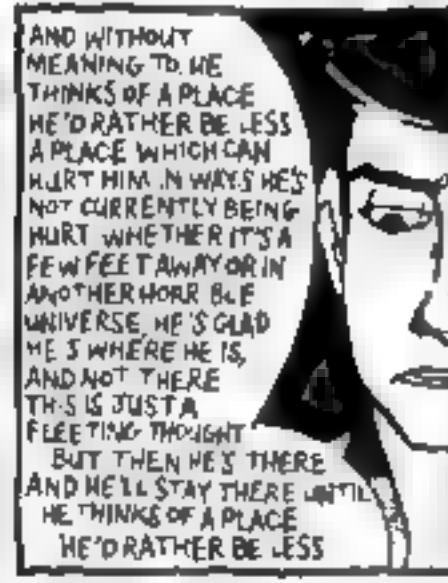
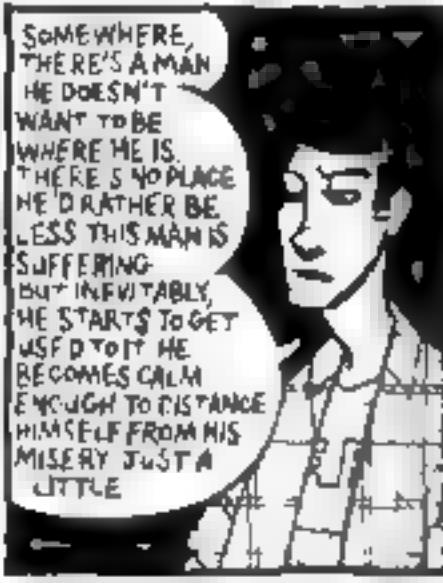
STOP



"THE DEMON WILL BECOME AN ABSOLUTE PSYCHOTIC UNHOLY TERROR AN ANIMAL HUNTING AND MUTILATING BY SUCKING AND FEEDING AND JECHING AND EXSANGUINATING"

"YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS LIKED THAT WORD EXSANGUINATE. I SO RARELY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE IT IN A SENTENCE









NOW, MEET MY
NEW HELPER-
WALLY!!

SAY HI,
WALLY!

W-H-HI,
WALLY!

HEH
HEH

YAAAAYY!!

WAH!

I WAS SURPRISED TO
GET YOUR CALL. HOW'D
YOU GET MY NUMBER?

I HAVE WAYS YOU
KNOW, YOU'RE THE
ONLY MIKE IN
TOWN

CAN WE JUST
SKIP TO THE IMPOR-
TANT STUFF? I'D
LIKE TO KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON

LOOK I'VE DONE A
LOT OF THINKING,
AND I . . .

I DON'T
THINK I CAN
TELL YOU WHAT'S
GOING ON.
I CAN'T LET YOU
INTO MY LIFE
I CAME HERE TO
WRAP THIS UP

OH COME
ON YOU CAN'T
DO THAT
TO ME
WHAT
I'VE SEEN
I CAN'T LEAVE
IT ALONE,
SANDRA I
HAVE TO
KNOW

AND
WHAT
ABOUT
ME?

WHAT DO
MEAN? THIS
IS ALL ABOUT
YOU! YOU'RE
AMAZING,
YOU'RE

BUT
WHAT
AM I??



NOW, STRANGE AS IT
MAY SEEM, THERE ARE
PEOPLE HERE WHO
DON'T EVEN THINK
THEY'RE SEEING
MAGIC NOW.
SILLY,
ISN'T
IT?

IT'S
SAD, BUT A
LOT OF PEOPLE
WON'T EVER
BELIEVE IN MAGIC.
THEY THINK IT'S
TOO GOOD TO BE
TRUE.



THEY WANT TO TAKE
IT APART, SEE WHAT
MAKES IT HAPPEN.
TO DISSECT IT,
LIKE A FROG! NOT THAT
THEY'RE CRUEL.
MIND YOU NO,
THEY'RE JUST A
LITTLE LOST.

JUST A
LITTLE
INSENSITIVE
WHERE MAGIC'S
CONCERNED.



THESE POOR FROGS DON'T LIVE THROUGH
DISSECTION, AND NEITHER DOES
MAGIC. MAGIC LIVES IN THOSE WHO
SIMPLY ACCEPT THAT IT
EXISTS.

NEVER
FORGET, SOME
THINGS CAN BE
TAKEN AT FACE
VALUE.

THERE
ISN'T ALWAYS A
MAN BEHIND
THE CURTAIN.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE
THAT'S THE
WHOLE
POINT



YOU KNOW
ME YOU KNOW
I'M NOT A
MONSTER
AND I'M
GLAD.

BUT I'M NOT HUMAN TO YOU
EITHER! I'M JUST A DREAM
A MYSTERY FOR YOU TO MINT

CAN YOU REALLY
LOOK AT ME AND
TELL ME YOU SEE
ME AS A HUMAN
BEING?



I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR YOUR
FEELINGS ESPECIALLY WITH HOW
I'VE ACTED BUT I CAN'T LIVE
WITH YOU IF THAT'S ALL THE RE

IS NOT WITH HOW I
MAY FEEL
ABOUT
YOU



IT WOULD
HURT TOO
MUCH

I'M NOT JUST
GOING TO GIVE
UP -



MIKE

I HURT
THINGS
BACK

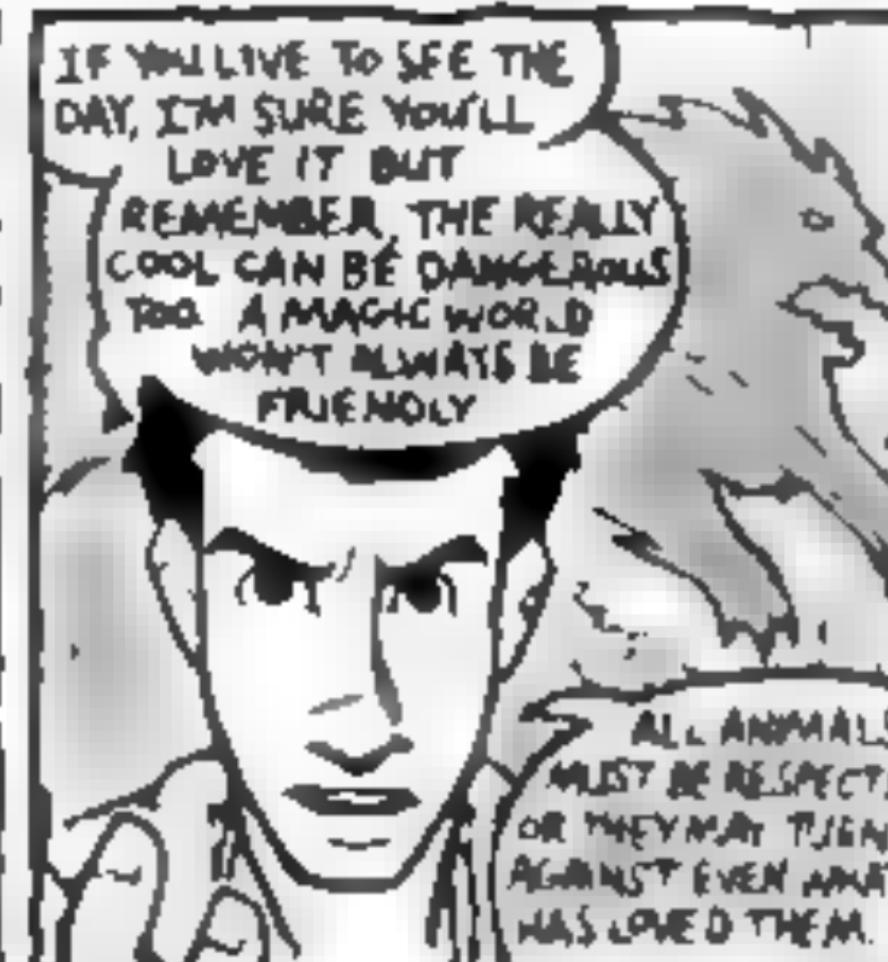


NOW ONE ANIMAL
CAN CHANGE INTO
ANOTHER & EIGHT
WALK IT?

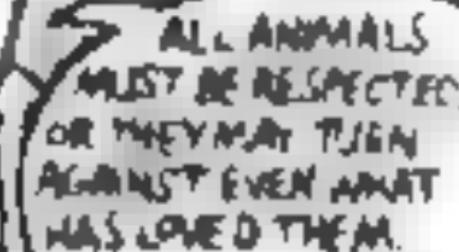
MODERN MAGIC
IS YOUNG JUST BEING
BORN INTO THIS DAY AND
AGE AND LIKE ALL YOUNG
THINGS ARE START COMP-
ANY EXCEPTED, OF
COURSE - IT'S
FRANKIE AND
THIRD



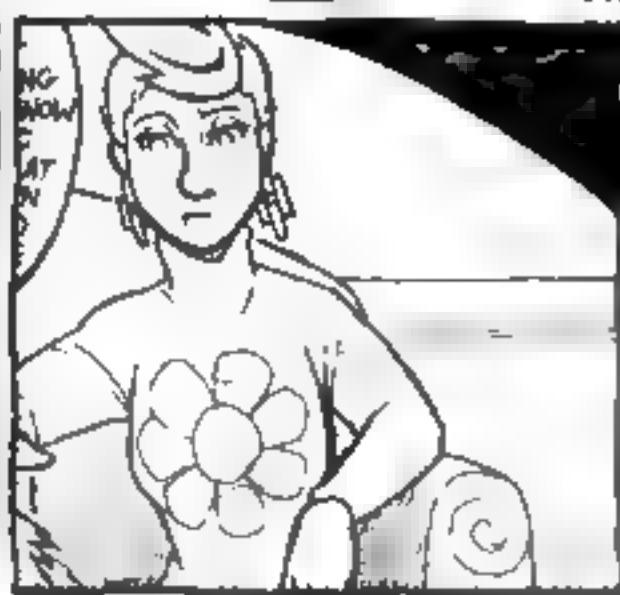
BUT IF YOU CAN BELIEVE
IN IT I CAN GROW AND
ONE DAY IT WON'T BE A
FEMALE FROG - IT'LL BE
A LION, OR TIGER, OR
BEAR AND THE WORLD
WILL BE A WONDERFUL
JUNGLE FULL OF



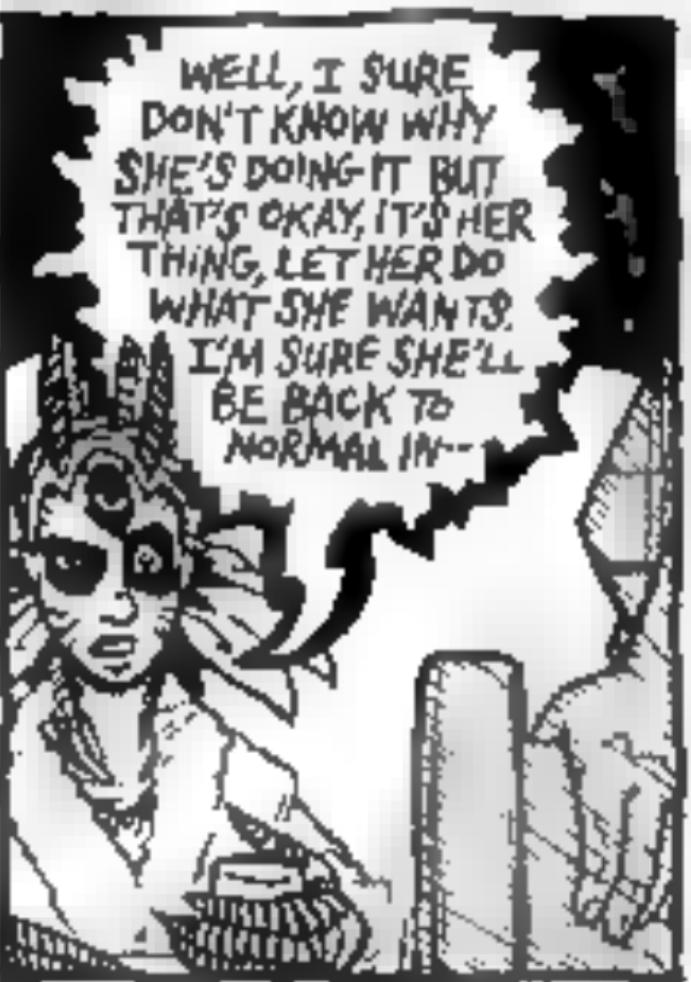
IF YOU LIVE TO SEE THE
DAY, I'M SURE YOU'LL
LOVE IT BUT
REMEMBER, THE REALLY
COOL CAN BE DANGEROUS
TOO. A MAGIC WORLD
WON'T ALWAYS BE
FRIENDLY



ALL ANIMALS
MUST BE RESPECTED
OR THEY MAY TURN
AGAINST EVEN WHAT
HAS LOVED THEM.









SO WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

I THINK
THE SIGNS
ARE PROM-
ISING

A NEARBY PARALLEL UNIVERSE ENDED
RECENTLY, AND SOME OF MY FAVORITE
STARS ARE MOVING INTO COMPELLING
POSITIONS. THIS COULD SIGNIFY PROPHECIES
WORKING OUT WHICH MIGHT MEAN AN UP-
SURGE IN GLAMOUR PERMUTING REALITY
AS WE KNOW IT. SO THAT'S GOOD. I'M
TALKING TO SPIRITS NOW, BUT I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND A WORD THEY'RE SAYING.
BUT THEY SEEM INTERESTED IN ME,
BECAUSE LATELY THEY'VE BEEN
ENUNCIATING REALLY LOUDLY AND
SLOWLY, YOU KNOW, LIKE WHEN A
TOURIST TRIES TO TALK TO SOME-
ONE WHO DOESN'T SPEAK
ENGLISH. I'LL START -

OH YOU MEANT ABOUT
CRYSTAL. YEAH, SHE'LL
BE FINE

SNOWHOFF



SO WE BOTH AGREE THIS IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

CRYSTAL AND I USED TO DO ALL SORTS OF CRAZY STUFF TOGETHER. SHE'S JUST TRYING SOMETHING CRAZY ON HER OWN FOR ONCE

I REMEMBER THE "UFO BARBECUE"

THE TIME I TRIED TO GROW A THRD ARM!

YEAH DO YOU THINK SHE MISSES ALL THAT?

I MISS IT SOME-TIMES BUT WE'VE GROWN WORLDS APART..

ALL OF US HAVE EACH PERSON IN THIS HOUSE LIVE A LIFE UNIQUE TO THEM. THAT'S WHAT MAKES OUR FRIENDSHIPS GREAT. THAT WE CAN REACH ACROSS WHAT DIVIDES US TO GIVE EACH OTHER STRENGTH

BUT THE DIVIDE REMAINS

HARD TO BELIEVE WE USED TO BE JUST THREE MERE MORTALS UNDER THE SAME ROOF.

WE'RE A REAL ZOO.

MR. CRYSTAL

I DON'T
WANT TO BE
OVERLY
PRYFUL

WHAT
IS IT
WALLY?

IT'S
WALLY
ARE YOU DOING
THIS? REALLY

BECAUSE
I'M SAD

I DON'T
KNOW WHY
I JUST LOOK
AT EVERYONE
AND ALL THAT'S
HAPPENED,
AND
I'M SAD

SOME TIMES
PEOPLE JUST
GET SAD YOU
KNOW? IT'S
A PHASE

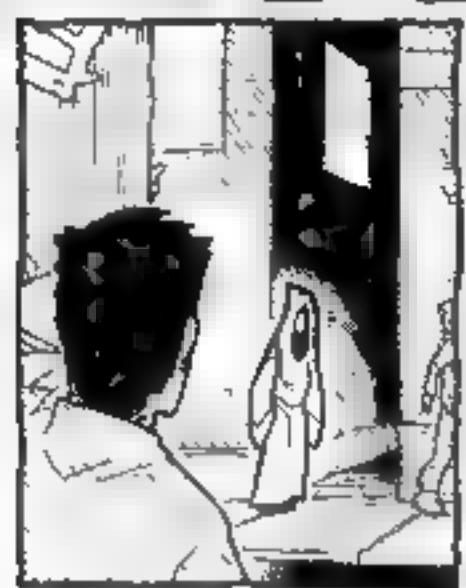
YOU CAN'T SOLVE
PHASES LIKE
PROBLEMS, YOU
JUST RIDE
THEM OUT

SO I THOUGHT
ABOUT IT AND I
DECIDED TO HAVE
FUN WHILE IT
LASTS!

THIS IS ME
BURNING THROUGH
DEPRESSION AND
LOOKING GOOD
DOING IT

NOW
YOU'RE SO
SMART

I GET
IT FROM
WATCHING
TV

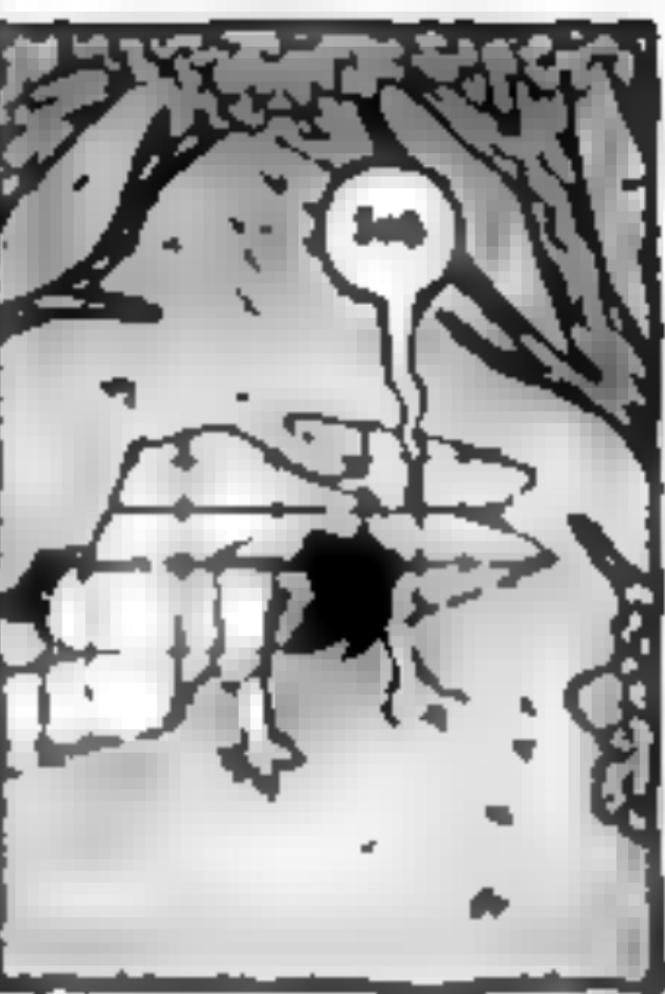












WHEN I CAN READ
MY TITLE CLEAR, TO
MANSIONS IN THE
SKIES



I'LL SAY
FAREWELL TO
EVERY FEAR, &
AND WIPE MY
WEEPING EYES.

I FEEL LIKE,
I FEEL LIKE
I'M ON
MY
JOURNEY
HOME



I FEEL LIKE, I
FEEL LIKE I'M ON
MY JOURNEY
HOME



SHOULD EARTH
AND AS I AM SOUL
FAVORITE AND O
MIGHT IN DUST
BE WANTED

THAT I
CAN SPEND IT
WITH I LOVE
AND FAITH A
FROM A AG
WORLD

SEE ME I
SEE ME I'M
ON MY JOURNEY
HOME I SEE ME
I SEE ME I'M
ON MY JOURNEY
HOME

IT CARES NOT
WHAT DEATHS
COME AND FRIENDS
BE SOLLOW
FAIR.

MAY I
BE SAFE &
REACH MY HOME
MY AND MY
HEARTEN
MY ALL



DID IT HURT?



MOMMA

?



MaryMcRockhard It's 12:00

MaryMcRockhard Hello? Anybody there?

MaryMcRockhard Hello?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit has logged in

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Yo

MaryMcRockhard GTCR! I knew you'd be here you're so dependable

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit If you knew I'd be here, why all the exclamation marks?

MaryMcRockhard sigh. you nevr let anyone off easy. do you?

anyone off easy. do you?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit No, never. I used to coddle people for a living until I couldn't afford to anymore. I found I lost my taste for it. Like a reformed druggie.

MaryMcRockhard Jm. Oh-kayyy

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Of course where come from things were different. Coddling was a luxury. It was a hard time and place.

MaryMcRockhard I could argue that in hard times you need coddling all the more.

MaryMcRockhard Maybe if hard times had more coddling, they'd soften up a bit

had more coddling. they'd soften up a bit

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Maybe. I brought a lot of joy. But sometimes I think I did it more for myself than for my audience. Now let's stop saying "coddle". It's making my stomach churn.

MaryMcRockhard Hard time and place. "For a living" "audience" say this is pertaining to your past. We're finally getting somewhere.

MaryMcRockhard Were you an actor??

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Clever girl. Assuming you are indeed a woman. Yes. I was an actor.

MaryMcRockhard Wow. Stage, TV or ?

MaryMcRockhard: wow! stage iv or

MaryMcRockhard: Yello. ?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: TV. I was on TV.

MaryMcRockhard: Cool. Have I heard of you? Seen you? Hey, I might already know what you look like then. Neat.

MaryMcRockhard: So??

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Hm

MaryMcRockhard: You're hesitating. Why?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: My God, you're perceptive

you're perceptive

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: It was a time of my life I feel I've abandoned. Not really by choice, but still definitively so. I prefer to think I've moved on.

MaryMcRockhard: Well can you AT LEAST give me a hint?? We've been chatting for weeks. this is the first concrete info I've got on you! Pleeeeeaaaaasseee?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: You know how weird it would sound to enunciate what you just wrote?

MaryMcRockhard: grr=> /

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Okay okay. just trying to get a rise. And succeeding.

just trying to get a rise. And succeeding

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: But you asked nicely so give me a minute to think

MaryMcRockhard: Minute given.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: From what I can tell, my show had a nationwide distribution and a fair run. I'd say with some certainty that you've seen my face somewhere

MaryMcRockhard: Are you determined to speak in riddles?

MaryMcRockhard: Wait. "From what you can tell?" How can you not tell? How?? Hooooowwwweee/??

oooooooooooooeee???

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Stop that
listen, let's just leave it that there are
things about me that would be...
complicated for you to know.

MaryMcRockshard What?? Come on.
GTCR You said you open up to me more
than anyone. But you haven't really told
me anything about yourself. I don't even
know what you look like.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit I know this'll
simply make you more curious, but
believe me when I say that just seeing me
could blow your mind and change your
view of reality.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Seriously

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit seriously

MaryMcRockshard Oh, I see. You're
Cthulhu.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit No. I'm not
I hear my housemate mention that name
from time to time. Who is he? A rock
star?

MaryMcRockshard No! He's a monster
who's supposed to be so "alien" and
horrible, that just to look at him drives
you nuts forever.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Really? Or
is he a fictional character?

MaryMcRockshard um. . .

MaryMcRockshard um. . .

MaryMcRockshard Are you actually
waiting for an answer or that?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Sure. Hell. I
don't know what monsters are real and
which aren't. It's really hard to tell around
here.

MaryMcRockshard I can't tell if you're
being sarcastic or not.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Seriously. I
can't swing a cat without hitting some kind
of "monster." If someone tells me they've
seen one, I'm inclined to believe them.

MaryMcRockshard Where do you live?
Sunnydale, California?

San Francisco, California

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit I get that reference. Good show.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit My life seems to be the textbook case of fiction and reality blurring.

MaryMcRockhard What monsters have you seen?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit We said too much. Something about you just burns me into a chatterbox. We should move on.

MaryMcRockhard Oh COME ON!

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit No need to shout talk too much, that's all

Shout talk too much, that's all

MaryMcRockhard Well what else are we going to talk about? It was just getting good.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Come on, I'm not interesting. Let's talk about you!

MaryMcRockhard Me? Why?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Why not? I don't know much about you either, and like you said we've been chatting for weeks.

MaryMcRockhard Okay, but I expect some hard data from you in return.

Mary McRockhard As you know, my family is quite wealthy

Family is quite wealthy

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit I didn't know that.

MaryMcRockhard Didn't I mention that before?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Maybe I probably forgot.

MaryMcRockhard See, that's what I love about you GTCR. Mysterious aside, you're so honest. No BS from you. You remind me of my family in that way.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Wealthy, and not prone to BS. Sounds like a pretty solid family to be born into.

Want to be informed?

MaryMcRockhard Yeah. Like. It's totally out in the open that my parents like my brother more than me

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Out of courtesy, I'd like to convey an awkward pause

MaryMcRockhard It's better than it sounds, they just made it clear that they wanted a boy more and they didn't wanna jerk me around

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit That's still sounding pretty sad.

MaryMcRockhard Well I won't say it's not hard on the ego every once in a while

Want to be informed?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit I am sorry about that Mary.

MaryMcRockhard It's okay. It's cool. I'm a pretty solitary person by nature so having less attention suits me

MaryMcRockhard My parents are cool we have a lot of respect. My brother's at Cambridge. He says it kind of sucks. Now you

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Now me what?

MaryMcRockhard I talked about myself, now you talk about yourself. Fair's fair. We don't have to talk about monsters

Want to be informed?

MaryMcRockhard In fact, since we're on this subject tell me about your parents. Tit for tat

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Well, you said we didn't have to talk about monsters

MaryMcRockhard What?

MaryMcRockhard Oh. Hard childhood?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit I dunno. I'm probably too hard on them. I held them to certain idealistic expectations. Actually, I did that for everything. It was a habit I took too long growing out of

MaryMcRockhard Why?

MaryMcRockhard: pretty stupid.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit I was stupid plain and simple. Your parents tell you stories where things are always happy and then you notice they aren't always happy. Most kids figure out that the stories are fiction, that the world they live in just isn't happy all the time. But I came to think that things really were like that, really happy and funny and cute, and I blinded myself to genuine suffering. Real pain didn't happen in my little world.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit I never forgave Mom and Dad for not having the guts to tell me otherwise.

MaryMcRockhard Yeah, that was pretty stupid.

MaryMcRockhard: pretty stupid.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit You can't tell, but I am laughing my fuzzy ass off right now.

MaryMcRockhard Fuzzy?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Never mind I'm laughing out loud, that's all.

MaryMcRockhard There's a Net term for that. It's "lol."

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Oh, that's what that means I guess Internet types can't be bothered to type whole words.

MaryMcRockhard sigh. Never let anyone off easy.

MaryMcRockhard: pretty stupid.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Says Ms. "One Spelling Error Per Page" Listen, I have to go. I can hear the early risers.

MaryMcRockhard: Okay, see you same bat-time, same Bat-channel. Glad you caught my spelling errors, they were intentional. Hey - If your life is fiction blurring with reality, does that mean your world really will turn all happy one day?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit has logged out

MaryMcRockhard: Fine, be that way. Goodnight Cthulhu.

MaryMcRockhard has logged out

IT HAPPENED TO ME! I WAS FLYING ACROSS THE MOON ON MY BROOM, WHEN I STARTED LAUGHING! THEN FIRE AND STARLIGHT WERE SHOOTING OUT OF ME!

IT MUST'VE LOOKED WICKED COOL FROM A DISTANCE.

I WAS IN MY GARDEN TENDING PLANTS THE LIKES OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN, WHEN I STARTED GLOWING AND...

YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FIVE-DIMENSIONAL AREAS.

I WAS WATCHING A MOVIE IN MY ROOM, WHEN I STARTED SHOUTING AND SCREAMING AND THEN BOOM!

ACTUALLY I WAS WATCHING HIGHLANDER: QUEEN WAS PLAYING. IT WAS AWESOME.

JACK, PLEASE

OH DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT TOO! YOU DON'T LIKE "MAGICISM," YOU DON'T LIKE "SYNTHASMS."

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

HEY I SAW STARS

FOR RIGHT NOW LET'S CALL THEM MAGIC SPASMS OKAY?

FINE, FINE FIX WHAT DON'T BROKE NOW AS I WAS SAYING THESE MUST BE SYMPTOMATIC WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

SO I'M NOT ALONE IN THIS

IT SEEMS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE BUT THESE MUST BE SYMPTOMATIC OF SOMETHING LARGER THESE SYNTASMS.

EVERY TIME I ASK A QUESTION YOU ALL JUST LOOK AT ME

CAUSE YOU'RE IN CHARGE!

NO I'M NOT NOONE'S IN CHARGE HERE, WE'RE EQUALS!

WELL, IT'S JUST YOU MET US HERE! MOST OF US YOU SHOWED US THE NET, TOLD US WHAT IT USED TO BE AND ALL ABOUT OUR LEGACY.

YEAH! THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE LAST GENERATION LIKE SUPERMAN!

LIKE STINKYUS, THE SMELL WIZARD MAKE HIM YOUR LEADER.

Nobody likes me

WELL THEN THERE'S NATHAN THE CHARTREUSE! HE WAS AROUND THE NET BEFORE I WAS AND HE EVEN ASCENDED LAST MONTH! YOU WANT A GUARU, PICK HIM!

I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW GETTING A PAPER CUT MADE ME TRANSCEND MYSELF

HMM THAT BRINGS SOMETHING ELSE TO MIND. A NUMBER OF US FEEL THAT WE'RE ACCRIVING POWER TOO QUICKLY OUR MAGICAL GROWTH COMING ALMOST TOO EASILY.

YEAH I DON'T THINK I WAS QUITE READY FOR THIS I DIDN'T FIGHT ANY GREAT EVIL... JUST A PAPER CUT

ANOTHER MYSTERY OR MAYBE A CLUE!

SEE, THIS IS WHY YOU'RE IN CHARGE THOSE PROFOUND INSIGHTS.

THAT AND YOU WON THE PLACE BY BANISHING AN EVIL SUPER-WIZARD! YOU DA MAN!

OKAY IF I'M IN CHARGE THEN HOW COME NO ONE LETS ME NAME ANYTHNG?





MORN-
ING

IT'S
AFTER-
NOON JACK.
WHAT'VE YOU
BEEN
DOING?

THE
MORNING
SHOW



WAIT GOD I
DON'T WANT
TO KNOW!

GIVE
ME A
BREAK! I WAS
JUST SITTING
WITH THE MUNCH.



THE - OH' UH.
ARE THERE
MORE, NOW?

A FEW
NOWHERE
NEAR AS
MANY AS
BEFORE, BUT
WHY DO
YOU ASK?



WELL IT'S A BIG PART
OF YOUR LIFE ISN'T IT?
WHY WOULDN'T
I ASK?

'CAUSE
WHEN WE
TALK ABOUT MY
PERSONAL LIFE
USUALLY YOU SAY YOU
DON'T WANT TO KNOW'

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
ME LATELY?

AM I GET-
TING NOSTALGIC
OR SOMETHING
STUPID LIKE THAT?

I DON'T WANT TO BE
NOSTALGIC I ALMOST
DIED TRYING TO LIVE
IN THE PAST.

I NEED TO
LIVE IN THE
PRESENT, AND
LOOK TO THE
FUTURE
BUT . . .

BUT
WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN?
WHAT'S MY
FUTURE
HERE?

WELL WE'RE ABOUT
DUE FOR ANOTHER
ADVENTURE, I
I BET

I
BET



I JUST
RESPECT YOUR
PRIVACY IT'S
WHAT YOU DO
IN PRIVATE
THAT I DON'T
RESPECT.

OR WHAT
YOU USED
TO DO. I
MEAN.
OH, YOU
KNOW.



I SOMETIMES FORGET
THAT YOU'RE NOT A
FULL-TIME PERVERT
ANYMORE.

I'M
NOT?

I DO
RESPECT
WHAT YOU
DO NOW.
JACK AND
WHAT YOU'VE
BEEN
THROUGH.



ACTUALLY I'M SUR-
PRISED WE HAVEN'T
TALKED ABOUT IT
MORE SUCH A
TERRIBLE
TRAGEDY...

BUT I
ONLY SAW IT
VAGUELY. LIKE
IN A DREAM.
I GUESS THEN
IT'S HARDER
FOR ME TO FEEL
LIKE IT REALLY
HAPPENED.



THE AFFAIRS OF WIZARDS
ARE HARD FOR MUNDANE
CONSCIOUSNESS TO GRASP SO
THEY TEND TO STAY OUTSIDE
OF COMMON KNOWLEDGE
MOSTLY.

MOSTLY?



I NOTICED A FEW NEWS ARTICLES MENTIONING A RISE IN STRANGE OCCULT-THEMED DEATHS AND MASS INSANITY. THERE WASN'T MUCH NOTICE BEYOND THAT.

A THOUSAND OR SO INEXPLICABLE TRAGEDIES IS JUST A LITTLE MYSTERY IN THIS BUSY WORLD.

I'M SORRY, JACK.

AH, SANDRA, I WISH I COULD TELL YOU WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A WIZARD... WE'RE CONTENT TO BE KEEPERS OF HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE. MYSTERY IS IN OUR NATURE... WE'RE SECRETIVE BY DEFAULT!

NO... THAT'S AS IT SHOULD BE... A SECRET.

WOW... WE'VE CERTAINLY BEEN HAVING SOME DECENT CONVERSATIONS LATELY.

MEAH, I'M STARTING TO WONDER WHEN OUR NEXT ADVENTURE'LL START!

UH...

UHHHHH.
OW. OW.
CRAP.

OH...
OKAY.

HERE I...
HERE I AM.
I'M BLINDFOLDED
RIGHT? HATE IT
WHEN I CAN'T
SEE. NASTY
SURPRISES.

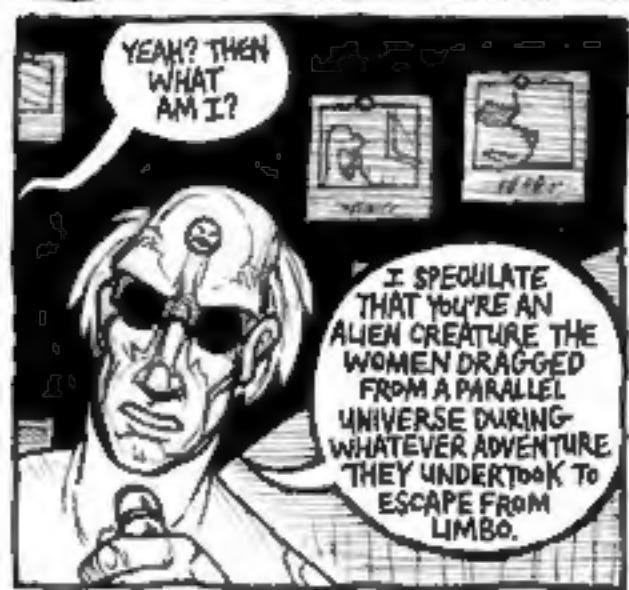
PROB-
ABLY TIED
TO A CHAIR.
...YEAH,
TIED TO A
CHAIR.

AND
YOU'RE...
WALKING
AROUND ME...
SLOWLY.
PROFESSOR.
BROAD SOME-
THING?

COME
ON, I
KNOW
YOU'RE
THERE.
START
TALKING
TO ME.

HOW
DID YOU
KNOW I
WAS HERE?

BIG,
SENSITIVE
EARS, AND A
QUIET
ACCEPTANCE
OF IN-
EVITABLE
CLICHÉ.



THAT MOVIE WAS
SO AMAZING.
I MEAN...
WOW.

EH.
IT WAS
OKAY.

WELL
IT SURE
IMRESSED
ME!

I MEAN... THOSE
SPECIAL EFFECTS
WERE... AMAZING!
AND THOSE ALIENS...
HOW DID THEY DO
THAT? I DIDN'T
SEE WIRES OR
ANYTHING!

THEY
DON'T REALLY
USE WIRES
ANYMORE, IT'S
ALL DONE WITH
COMPUTERS. LIKE
IN THE SPIDER-
MAN MOVIE!

THEY MADE A
SPIDER-MAN
MOVIE??

UH... A
COUPLE, NOW.
THEY'VE BEEN
MAKING LOTS OF
COMIC-BOOK MOVIES,
ESPECIALLY SINCE
BATMAN.

THEY MADE A
BATMAN
MOVIE??

YOU'VE...
GOT A LOT OF
CATCHING UP
TO DO. HOW OLD
ARE YOU,
ANYWAY?

I DON'T KNOW...
WOLVES DON'T HAVE
BIRTHDAYS. I FORGOT
WHEN MINE WAS A
LONG TIME AGO.

OH...
THAT'S
SO SAD!
I MEAN...
IT'S...

IT MAKES MY HEART
BLEED FOR YOU, TO
HAVE LOST YOUR YEARS
IN THE DARK AND
LONELY... DARKNESS
OF WOLVERY.

HOW MANY
DARK, LONELY
NIGHTS YOU
MUST HAVE
SPENT ALONE...
IN THE
DARK.
LONELY.

I SHALL WARM MY
PARLOUR TONIGHT
WITH CUDDLES
OF SWEET
DARKNESS!

HUNH...

HUH... HUH?
WHAT'S
THAT?

WHAT?
THAT
SOUND... IT'S
LIKE A...

LIKE A WHISTLE,
OR SOMETHING...
IT'S COMING
FROM IN
HERE.

AN
ALLEY OF
DARKNESS!

I THINK IT'S
THIS BOX! I
WONDER
WHAT IT--

PSSHHHH

AH-
AHCCCCHHHH!



YOUR
COLLEGE
YEARS.